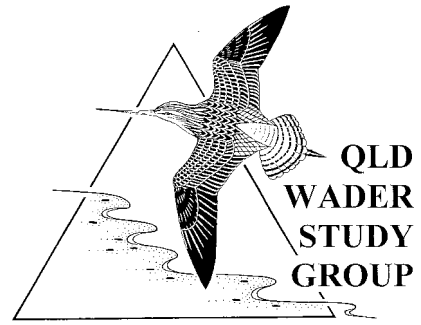


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 28

WINTER 1999

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of the Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated.

Scientific Names of Waders

by Arthur Keates

As a follow up to the autumn edition of the newsletter featuring an article about the origins of the English names of some waders, HANZAB gives the following information on scientific names.

Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)

Gallinago is derived from the Latin *gallina* for hen while *hardwickii* is in honour of Charles Hardwick of Tasmania, who discovered the bird.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Limosa is from the Latin *limosus*, muddy (from *limus*, mud), and refers to the tidal and marshy habitat of the species.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Lapponica refers to the type-locality (modern Latin Lapponia, Lapland).

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Phaeopus is from the Greek words for grey and foot, and refers to the greenish-grey colour of the legs.

Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Madagascariensis refers to the erroneous type-locality (Madagascar), presumably meant to be *macassarensis* being Macassar, Sulawesi.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Tringa comes from the Greek word for a thrush-sized, white-rumped, wading bird that bobs its tail while *stagnatilis* is derived from the Latin (*stagnatilis*, from *stagnam*, belonging to pools or marshes) referring to its habitat.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Nebularia is compounded from Latin *nebula*, mist or cloud, and *arius*, possessing, and refers to the grey and spangled upper parts.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

Xenus is from the Greek word for stranger or foreigner (the species being described from a migrant bird). *Cinereus* is from the Latin *cinereus*, ash-coloured, (from *cinis*, ashes), referring to the colour of the upper parts.

(Continued on Page 3)

QWSG CONTACTS

All correspondence to: The Chairperson, QWSG, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Qld 4520

CHAIRPERSON:

Peter Driscoll (07) xxxx xxxx

MINUTE SECRETARY:

Diane Francis (07) xxxx xxxx

LIBRARIAN

Dave Stewart (07) xxxx xxxx

TREASURER:

Sheryl Keates (07) xxxx xxxx

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

David Edwards (07) xxxx xxxx

COUNT COORDINATOR:

Linda Cross (07) xxxx xxxx

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lindsay Agnew (07) xxxx xxxx

Andrew Geering (07) xxxx xxxx

Sandra Harding (07) xxxx xxxx

Arthur Keates (07) xxxx xxxx

Ivell Whyte (07) xxxx xxxx

Margaret Bernard (07) xxxx xxxx

Joyce Harding (07) xxxx xxxx

Eddie Hegerl (07) xxxx xxxx

Rob Mancini (07) xxxx xxxx

Phil Cross (07) xxxx xxxx

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Forward application to:
Mrs Sheryl Keates,
The QWSG Treasurer,
xxxxxxxxxxxx,
Carindale, Brisbane
Qld 4152.

About QUEENSLAND WADER

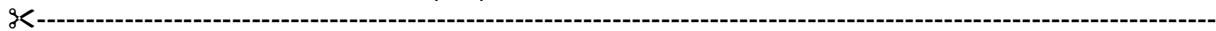
Queensland Wader is a quarterly publication of the Queensland Wader Study Group. Contributions should be addressed to David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, xxxxxxxx, Clayfield, Qld 4011 or E-mail to gouldian@xxxxxil.com.au Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word, ASCII or Rich Text.

Opinions expressed in Queensland Wader are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Queensland Waders Study Group, nor the Queensland Ornithological Society.

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I/We wish to join/renew: (Single \$12; Family \$22; Student/Pensioner \$9)

Title.....Name:.....
 Address:..... Membership \$.....
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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$.....

How did you hear about QWSG

What activities do you wish to participate in? WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL, OTHER (specify.....)

SIGNATURE: DATE:.....

Return to: Mrs Sheryl Keates, The QWSG Treasurer, xxxxx,
Carindale, Brisbane Qld 4152.

(continued from Page 1)

Grey-tailed Tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*)

Heteroscelus is from the Greek word for uneven legs, referring to the hexagonal scutellation of the tibia and rear of the tarsus and *brevipes* combines the Latin for short (*brevis*) and foot (*pes*), referring to the short yellow legs.

Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*)

Incanus is Latin for grey or hoary, based on the name "Ash-coloured Snipe".

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Arenaria is from the Latin (*arenarius*), relating to sand (from *arena*, sand), no doubt referring to the seashore habitat while *interpres* may refer to going in between the tide lines.

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

Calidris is derived from the specific name *Tringa calidris* given to the Red Knot by Gmelin (1789) and comes from the Greek for an unidentified ash-coloured bird mentioned by Aristotle and taken by subsequent authors to be some sort of sandpiper.

Tenuirostris is Latin for slender (*tenuis*) billed (*rostris*, from *rostrum*, bill) because it was originally considered to be allied to the redshanks and its bill was more slender than that of the members of that group.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Canutus is in honour of Canute, King of England, Denmark and Norway (1016-35), of whom it is said that he sat at the seaside ordering the tide to stay out, thus showing to his flattering councillors that he was not all-powerful.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Ruficollis is Latin for red (*rufus*) neck (*collum*)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

Acuminata is Latin (*acuminatus*) for pointed (from *acuere*, to sharpen), referring to the pointed tail-feathers.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Ferruginea is Latin (*ferrugineus*) for rust-coloured (from *ferrugo*, iron, rust), and refers to the rich chestnut-red of the breeding plumage.

Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*)

The Latin *Haematopus*, is compounded from Greek words for blood and foot, referring to the pinkish-red legs and feet of the genus. *Longirostris* combines the Latin for long (*longus*) and bill (*rostrum*).

Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*)

Fuliginosus is from the Latin *fuligo*, *-inis*, meaning soot, referring to the all-black plumage.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Himantopus is composed of the Greek words for a strap and a foot.

Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*)

Recurvirostra combines the Latin *recurvus*, bent, curved back, with *rostrum*, bill, for the characteristic upturned bill and *novaehollandiae* New Holland, being Australia's only avocet.

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)

Pluvialis is the adjectival form of the Latin *pluvia* (rain). Why it was given to this genus of waders is not known, but suggestions are that it refers to the plumage, dappled as if after rain; to the migratory habits to avoid rain; or to its wet habitats. *Fulva* in Latin means 'tawny' or 'yellowish-brown', describing the general appearance.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Squatarola is the local Italian (Venetian) name for a kind of plover

Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

Ruficapillus is Latin (*ruficapillus* (red-capped) referring to the chestnut crown and name of the species, brightest and largest in male.

Double-banded Plover (*Charadrius bicinctus*)

Bicinctus is Latin meaning two- (*bi*) girdled or encircled (*cinctus*) referring to the black and chestnut bands of breeding plumage.

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Mongolus is named after the type-locality, Mongolia.

Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

Leschenaultii is named after the French botanist and collector, Leschenault de la Tour.

Black-fronted Plover

Elsayornis is in honour of JR Elsey, the English surgeon, explorer and naturalist who was in Australia in 1855-56. *Melanops* is compounded of the Greek words (black) and (face)

Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythrogonys cinctus*)

Erythrogonys combines the Greek for (red) and (knee) and *cinctus* is Latin for girdled or wreathed, referring to the broad black breast-band.

Banded Lapwing (*Vanellus tricolor*)

Vanellus is mediaeval Latin for the lapwing, derived as a diminutive form the Latin *vannus*, a winnowing fan, referring to the characteristic flight action and *tricolor* is Latin for three-coloured, referring to the pattern of the face.

Masked Lapwing (*Vanellus miles*)

Miles is Latin for a soldier and refers to the carpal spurs which give an armed appearance.

By Arthur Keates

AUSTRALIAN WADER STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE
12th – 13th June 1999

This conference will take place at Banfields, Thompson Avenue, COWES, Philip Island, Victoria, Australia on the 12th – 13th June 1999.

Contents of the conference are:

- Lifestyle, Management and Conservation of Hooded Plovers: Susan Taylor, Mike Weston, Bernice Dowling, Peter Dann.
- Wader Population Monitoring: Richard Loyn, Tom Scotney, Peter Driscoll.
- Wader Conservation in the Next Centaury: Brett Lane, Tom Scotney, Doug Watkins.

Other Papers Received:

- Satellite Tracking of Eastern Curlew – Peter Driscoll,
- Mussel Beds and Pied Oystercatchers – Iain Taylor,
- Movements of Pied Oystercatchers – Pete Collins,
- Feeding Ecology of Curlew Sandpipers – Peter Dann,
- Feeding Ecology of Great Knots – Danny Rogers,
- Energetics of Great Knot – Phil Battley,
- Beach Stone Curlew – Alex Appleman,
- NW Wader Expedition 98 – Clive Minton,
- AWSG China Expeditions – Mark Barter,
- Gulf of Carpentaria – Jim Wilson.

We hope to run a brief report on the conference in the next newsletter for all of you who were unable to attend.

A WADER WIN WITH A LITTLE TO BE RETURNED

Jason Cummings

The Hunter River Estuary, and in particular Kooragang and Ash Islands, are well known to be critical areas for wildlife, especially for waterbirds. Since the early 19th Century, this area has undergone a steady process of degradation that dramatically decreased its viability as habitat for over-wintering wading birds, such as sandpipers and curlews, and for waterbirds. In recognition of its importance to migratory wading birds, in 1984, Kooragang Island became one of three sites within New South Wales to be listed as a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention.

SNAG has recently been awarded an Environmental Trust rehabilitation grant from the NSW state government to conduct habitat remediation work on Kooragang Island. One of the major issues concerned the health of the populations on Kooragang Island is the extent of available habitat in the area. The aim of this project is to restore tidal flushing to an area previously degraded, thereby providing essential high water roosting habitat for migratory waders. Vegetation rehabilitation will also be conducted to help re-establish a functioning ecosystem.

Importantly, changes in the abundance and distribution of waterbirds and migratory waders will be scientifically monitored, concurrent with the work being done over the next two years. Our aim is for this project to act as a model for habitat restoration work for similar problems. By involving the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services, Hunter Bird Observers Club and Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project we can ensure a well-rounded approach and continued development of a coordinated, knowledgeable, conservation effort.

If anyone would like to know more about this project (or apply for the Project Officer position) feel free to contact us, at the Birds Australia Sydney Office:

PO Box 1322

Crows Nest, NSW.

Phone: 02 xxxx xxxx

Fax: 02 xxxx xxxx xxxx

E-mail: jason@xxxxx.net.au

<http://xxx.au/~rosella>

From Galah 34: 4

WINTER REFUGE FOR BUSH STONE-CURLEWS

Alex Appleman

In the unlikely habitat of the Townsville rail-yards, Bush Stone-curlews find sanctuary.

Visitors to Magnetic Island off Townsville, North Queensland will be familiar with its Bush Stone-curlews (*Burhinus grallaria*). Estimates of the bird's number on the Island is of the order of 800 individuals giving Magnetic Island one of its highest known population densities. However, its status on the adjacent mainland is poorly documented.

Townsville and Thuringowa form Australia's twelfth largest conurbation with a human population of around 130,000. The twin-cities span the northern and western banks of the Ross River in the dry tropics. During the breeding season Bush Stone-curlews are recorded at over 30 sites in and around the city. Nocturnally active, they are most easily found in day shelters in the coastal scrub where they favour tamarind trees; in open woodland around the southern fringe of Townsville or in remnant patches of *Eucalyptus tessellaris* and *E. alba* closer to the river.

Suitable nesting sites are at a premium. Proximity to the urban area being a reliable food supply of insects but increased risks from road kills and predation by domestic animals. The most sort after sites are within fenced areas with scattered trees or shrubs throughout and along the northern perimeter line. During the breeding season territories are noisily defended against interlopers and these vocal confrontations are believed to have led to the proposition that Bush Stone-curlews occur in great numbers around Townsville.

As the sun moves low over the horizon in the winter months pairs in the primary breeding sites move to day-shelters along the northern boundary of their territory away from areas cast in shadow for most of the day. Birds with less favourable territories assemble in groups of 10-40 individuals in winter camps aligned in a north or north-westerly direction, providing the maximum ratio of food to foraging area.

Of the four winter camps currently monitored in the Townsville area one stands out from the rest: the Queensland Rail workshops in South Townsville. To the human eye the rail yards are a bleak industrial landscape of gravel, rail lines, rolling stock and corrugated iron buildings where clumps of the hardy weed *Chloris inflata* form the only vegetation. Yet they provide a suitable winter retreat for Bush Stone-curlews from the neighbouring suburb in that they face north-west, capturing the winter sun; the workshops are flood-lit by night attracting a ready food supply; public access is restricted and the Queensland Rail actively traps feral cats. With their cryptic plumage they blend with the landscape; rail lines and points have become surrogates for fallen logs and the rolling stock provide both shade and shelter.

PS: A pair of BSC's are currently nesting in a grassy quadrangle behind the 'Dept of English' on the Western Campus of JCU. The area has been cordoned off with tape. With increased awareness in the community the BSC is likely to remain secure in the Townsville area.

From Galah 34: 4

Black Swan Watch

The Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) is one of the most prominent and familiar birds of Australia. Remarkably, very little is known about the biology of the species. A recently started project at the University of Melbourne aims to fill in the gaps in our knowledge about its breeding behaviour, population structure, movements and habitat requirements. As the Black Swan is a key species to many wetlands, this information will also assist in the protection of these fragile habitats.

Over the course of this three year project, an estimated 600 swans will be individually marked at various wetlands around Port Phillip Bay in Victoria, mainly at Werribee Sewage Farm. Markings will comprise a blue plastic neck collar with a white inscription (a letter and two numbers) unique to each bird, a corresponding leg band and a metal band from the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

The inscriptions on the neck collars can be read in the field with a telescope at long range (over 100 metres). Each collar is inscribed four times to allow a complete code to be read from any angle. It is vital that all movements and breeding attempts are known for each marked bird. Observations by birdwatchers are therefore extremely valuable. We would very much appreciate being told of sightings of birds marked in the way above.

Please provide as many of the following details as possible with each report: colour of collar, inscription on collar, colour of leg band, location (as precise as possible), number of other swans the marked bird was associating with, and any indications of breeding activity. All observations are valuable, including those at Werribee and those birds at the same site for prolonged periods of time. Each observer will receive a history of the bird he or she observed.

Ken Kraaijeveld
 Dept of Zoology, University of Melbourne
 Parkville, VIC 3052
 Phone: 03 xxxx xxxx Fax 03 xxxx xxxx
 E-mail: k.kraaijeveld@xxxxxxxx.edu.au

Maintenance and Social Day - 5th June 1999

Equipment Maintenance Day and Social Get-together.

When?	5 th of June at 9:00 am.
Where?	Nudgee Beach Environment Centre, 1588 Nudgee Beach Road, Nudgee Beach.
What do you need?	BYO Picnic Lunch / BBQ, binoculars, insect repellent, suntan cream, enthusiasm, humour, clothes that don't matter.
Who to Contact?	Linda Cross, phone 07 5495 2758 for more details.

This will be an ideal opportunity for members to meet other QWSG members and some of the Committee.

Second year of a three year study of waders in the South East Gulf of Carpentaria, Australia

By Peter Driscoll

The region of the South East Gulf of Carpentaria, Australia is known to be internationally important for 19 species of wader and is particularly noteworthy for Great Knot (estimated population of 66,000), Black-tailed Godwit (51,000) and Red-necked Stint (40,000). Very large numbers of Red Knot (79,100) have been recorded on southward migration, presumably on their way to south-east Australia and New Zealand, and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on northward migration from south-east Australia. The Gulf almost certainly plays an important role in the migration strategies of other species migrating to and from southern Australia.

During February, March and April this year the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), with help from AWSG and the New Zealand Wader Study Group, ran a second major fieldtrip to the south-east Gulf of Carpentaria. Participants included Mark Barter and Jim Wilson (AWSG), Adrian Riegen (NZWSG), and Peter Driscoll, Brian Venables and Karen Welsh (QWSG). A team from the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) led by Jonathan Lee helped to cannon-net birds in the initial phase of the fieldwork. The project is funded through a National Heritage Trust grant from the Federal Government to the Qld State Government, and administered by QWSG. The Pasmenco Century Mine Project has contributed funding.

The overall objective is to achieve a much improved understanding of the role of the South East Gulf of Carpentaria for migratory waders, especially during the northward migration period. The information is needed not only to better understand movements of birds in the Flyway but to prepare for a Ramsar nomination and appropriate management of the wetlands.

This year involved intensive tracking of birds and monitoring of feeding and roosting activities over an 80 km long stretch of coastline. The first major fieldtrip was in March last year, and less comprehensive fieldwork was undertaken last September and October. A boat and an ultra-light were used extensively with limited opportunity of overland access to the coast. Occasional, more distant aerial surveys of the coastline were made, and hinterland freshwater wetlands were visited by vehicle and the ultra-light.

We now have a detailed knowledge of the use of important roosting and feeding areas, species' abundances and changes in numbers during the northward migration period. Flock movements are complex, in keeping with peculiar tide regimes and extremely complex coastal habitat.

Variations on last years results and persistent differences to aerial survey results from the 1980s indicate regular usage of southern Gulf shoreline habitats by core species such as Red Knot and Great Knot, but more opportunistic use of the region by species such as Little Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Incidental flights to southern Gulf plains have revealed very large concentrations of waterfowl and waterbirds with scattered but regular use of sub-coastal freshwater wetlands by some migratory species and resident wader species.

The remaining year of fieldwork will focus on understanding the broader context of use of the region by waders and looking at abundances at other times of the year, mid winter and mid summer.

By Peter Driscoll

Atlassing a Wetland:- Another dimension in atlassing.

Counts of Wetland birds can now be atlassed as bird numbers can be recorded on the Record Form. Write the number of birds carefully immediately after the bird's name taking care not to write over any of the 'ovals'. The ovals should still be filled in to identify the species as being present or breeding. Habitat Forms can be completed for wetland sites and either an Area Search or 2-ha Search can be recorded. Enquiries to P.Nichols, Qld Facilitator,

From Atlas News No.1. January 1999.

COUNT PROGRAMME

Linda Cross

I start my article with an apology to quite a number of counters.

Unfortunately, some leg flag and interesting sightings for November, December and January did not appear in the last newsletter. I had taken the details from your counts and listed them on a couple of sheets of paper ready for inclusion into the wader watch. I found them, (Oops!) among a pile of filing which somehow still had not found it's way into the cabinets. They appear in the wader watch section of this newsletter - sorry.

We warmly welcome Les Thyer to the count programme who has stepped in for Rob Farnes in the Mackay region. Rob is moving to another area and we hope it won't be too far away from some more waders that he can count for us. We know that Les is more than capable of filling Rob's shoes and he has certainly had to do some counting. During his counts at Pioneer River he had 1000 Lesser and 100 Greater Sandplovers on 18-1-99 and 1300 Lesser and 800 Greater Sandplovers on 17-4-99 to sort out, along with all the other species of waders!

I have again listed sightings of some of our uncommon waders and breeding records for the sedentary waders.

Not quite so many sightings of Beach Stone-curlew to report this newsletter. A total of only 8 birds from three sites. Jon Wren - Bowen, Peter & Lynette Reilly - South Stradbroke Island and Russell Watson - Great Keppel Island between 21-12-98 and 16-4-99.

There was 23 Sooty Oystercatchers reported from the following sites, Jon Wren - Bowen and Cape Edgecombe, Edward Kleiber - Tweed River Entrance, Russell Watson - Great Keppel Island, Cliff & Peg Whiteoak, Geoff & Betty Shelton and Jan Bedwell - Maroochy River North Shore and Les Thyer - Pioneer River Mackay, between 21-11-98 and 17-4-99.

Red-capped Plover chicks reported from Jon Wren - Saltworks Bowen, Arthur Keates & David Connolly - Manly Boat Harbour and Jill Chamberlain - Pelican Waters Caloundra, between 31-10-98 and 13-3-99.

Since my note in the last newsletter about the early arrival of a lone Double-banded Plover at the Caboolture River Mouth on 4-3-99 I was eager to check out the information from count sheets.

Following is a list of sightings:

Arthur Keates - 2 at Manly Boat Harbour on 6-3-99.

Jill Chamberlain - 2 at Caloundra on 13-4-99.

Cliff & Peg Whiteoak, Geoff & Betty Shelton, & Jan Bedwell - 10 at Maroochy River North Shore on 16-4-99.

Ivan Fien - Caboolture River on 16-4-99.

Russell Watson - 1 at Great Keppel Island on 16-4-99.

Les Thyer - 20 at Pioneer River Mackay on 17-4-99.

Arthur Keates - 21 at Manly Boat Harbour on 17-4-99.

So, if you want to get a look at Double-banded Plovers while they are here the above sites are usually reliable.

A reminder that there is no count in June but we look forward to seeing you at the Equipment Maintenance / Come Social Day on the 5th of June at 9:00 am, at the Nudgee Beach Environment Centre, 1588 Nudgee Beach Road, Nudgee Beach.

The NATIONAL WINTER COUNT is 31 JULY.

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.

If you would like to know how you can help QWSG by surveying a site or would like more information as to what is required please contact: Mrs Linda Cross at 40 Thompson Rd, Bellmere, Qld 4510. Linda Cross (07) 5495 2758.

WADER WATCH <i>Linda Cross, Peter Driscoll, Joyce Harding</i>
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Leg Flag Banding Legend (colour = where banded)

- Green = Brisbane/Queensland,
- Orange = Victoria,
- Yellow = Northern Western Australia,
- White = New Zealand (some species banded in New South Wales),
- Blue = Japan.

Green leg flag sightings - Queensland

28 Bar-tailed Godwit - Jim & Ivell Whyte, Martin Waugh, Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Alex Bisgrove & Rob Stogdale, David Edwards, David Connolly, and Ivan Fien at Cabbage Tree Creek, Amity Point, Lytton, Clontarf Beach, Manly Boat Harbour, Toorbul and Caboolture River Mouth, between 21-11-98 and 20-3-99.

26 Eastern Curlew - Arthur & Sheryl Keates, David Edwards and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour, between 20-12-98 and 13-3-99. (Transmitters seen on five individuals between 6-1-99 and 13-3-99)

8 Great Knot - Jim & Ivell Whyte, Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross and Eddie Kleiber at Cabbage Tree Creek, Manly Boat Harbour, Deception Bay and Coombabah Lake, between 21-11-98 and 20-3-99.

4 Greater Sand Plover - Arthur Keates and Trevor Ford at Manly Boat Harbour and Dux Creek, between 20-12-98 and 16-1-99.

6 Grey-tailed Tattler - Arthur Keates and Martin Waugh at Lytton, Manly Boat Harbour and Amity Point, between 19-12-98 and 30-3-99.

13 Lesser Sand Plover - Arthur & Sheryl Keates and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour, between 20-12-98 and 28-3-99.

10 Ruddy Turnstone - Brad & Linda Welch, Arthur & Sheryl Keates, David Edwards and David Connolly at Peel Island and Manly Boat Harbour, between 19-12-98 and 28-3-99.

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

Bar-tailed Godwit - 1 with white flag seen by Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 17-4-99, (possibly the first New Zealand flagged bird into Moreton Bay).

Black-winged Stilt - 1 with metal band seen by Col Collins at Tallebudgera Creek on 24-3-99.

Crested Tern - 1 with metal band seen by Edward Kleiber at Tweed River Entrance on 15-3-99.

Eastern Curlew - 1 with orange flag on each leg and transmitter seen by Trevor Ford at Dux Creek Bribie Island on 27-4-99 and 2 with transmitters seen by Barry & Joanna Morgan at Thornside on 3-5-99.

Great Knot - 1 with orange flag seen by Jim & Ivel Whyte at Cabbage Tree Creek on 21-11-98.

Greater Sand Plover - 1 with orange flag seen by Arthur Keates at Manly Boat Harbour on 20-12-98 and 1 with orange flag seen by Arthur at same site on 10-1-99.

Grey-tailed Tattler - 1 with blue flag seen by Brad White & Linda Welch at Peel Island on 19-12-98 and 1 with blue flag and white metal band on same leg seen by Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 15- 3-99.

Lesser Sand Plover - 1 with orange flag seen by Arthur Keates and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour on 28-3-99.

Little Tern - 1 with metal band seen by Michele Burford and Peter Rothlisberg at St Helena Island on 20-3-99.

Pied Oystercatcher - 5 with metal band seen by Michele Burford and Peter Rothlisberg at St Helena Island on 20-12-98, and 2 with metal band on 20-3-99, 1 with metal band seen by Arthur Keates and David Edwards at Manly Boat Harbour on 6-1-99, 1 with metal band seen by Arthur Keates at Manly Boat Harbour on 10-1-99, 1 with metal band seen by Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 15-1-99, 1 with metal band seen by Arthur & Sheryl Keates and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour on 27-2-99, 1 with metal bands on each leg seen by Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 20-3-99, 1 with metal band on right leg and pink band on left leg seen by Arthur Keates and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour on 28-3-99.

Red-necked Stint - 1 with orange flag and 1 with metal band seen by Arthur Keates and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour on 27-2-99 and 1 with blue flag seen by Peter & Lynette Reilly at South Stradbroke Island on 20-3-99.

Silver Gull - 1 with metal band on right leg and 2 plastic light blue bands on left leg seen by Edward Kleiber at Tweed River Entrance on 14-3-99.

Interesting sightings

- 29 Black-fronted Dotterel (includes 6 immature) - Linda Cross at Deception Bay on 19-3-99.
2 Broad-billed Sandpiper - Trevor Ford and Frank Bigg at Dux Creek Bribie Island on 23-1-99.
31 Common Sandpiper - Jon Wren at Saltworks Bowen on 19-12-98 and 21 on 13-2-99.
2 Common Sandpiper - Russell Watson at Great Keppel Island on 19-3-99 and 2 on 16-4-99.
1000 Little Tern - Jill Chamberlain at Caloundra on 22-3-99.
18 Red-kneed Dotterel - Rob Mancini at Lytton on 17-4-99.
4 Sanderling - Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 2-3-99 and 6 on 15-3-99.
1 Sanderling - Peter & Lynette Reilly at South Stradbroke Island on 17-4-99.

Not waders, but of interest anyway

- 1 Australasian Gannet (Juvenile) - Michele Burford and Peter Rothlisberg at St Helena Island on 20-3-99.
1 Black Bittern - Michele Burford and Peter Rothlisberg at St Helena Island on 20-3-99.
Darter - Edward Kleiber reports 1 nest with 3 chicks, 4 nesting, 10 fledglings from 3 nests, all from Tweed Sewage Works on 17-3-99.
800 Common Tern - Cliff & Peg Whiteoak and Shirley Rooke at Maroochy River North Shore on 19-3-99.
1 Lesser Crested Tern - Arthur Keates at Manly Boat Harbour on 20-3-99 and 3 on 17-4-99.
2 Lesser Crested Tern - Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 20-3-99.
300 Magpie Goose - John Thomson & Rob MacFarlane at Kinka Beach on 17-4-99.
Plumed Whistling-ducklings (6) - Jean Corney at Bishops Marsh on 17-4-99.

NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**Shorebird Symposium**

When -- October 8, 1999

Where -- Monterrey, Mexico

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Shorebird Symposium to be conducted on October 8, 1999 at the 6th Neotropical Ornithological Congress (October 4-10, 1999) in Monterrey, Mexico. The special symposium will be organised by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) in cooperation with the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) and the Consejo Internacional para la Conservación de las Aves. Sección México (CIPA-MEX), organisers of the congress.

WHSRN invites abstracts for oral and poster presentations on shorebird biology, ecology, and conservation relevant to the Western Hemisphere. Special preference will be given to presentations that address the following topics: a) Identification of shorebird population limiting factors, b) Habitat use, quality, and dynamics, c) Life-history research with conservation implications, d) Evaluation of habitat management practices, e) Global climate change and shorebirds, and f) Research on monitoring techniques.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words and must include:

- 1) title,
- 2) author(s)/presenter & affiliation,
- 3) statement of objectives,
- 4) methods,
- 5) results,
- 6) discussion/ conclusions.

Abstracts may be submitted by mail on paper, on a 3.5 inch computer diskette formatted in DOS, or by e-mail as an attached document. Electronically formatted abstracts must be in either MS Word or ASCII / RTF format. No MAC formatted disks can be accepted. All submissions must include the authors full name, title, postal address (including country and postal codes), telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address.

All authors will be notified of receipt of their abstracts. Acceptance of presentations will be made until the session is filled and authors will be notified once their paper is accepted or declined. All accepted authors will be asked to submit a complete printed version of their presentation no later than September 1, 1999 for distribution and inclusion in the Proceedings. Guidelines will be provided. Papers will be organised into associated themes for presentation during the Symposium.

Please submit proposed abstracts (or letters stating your intention to submit) to:

Jim Corven, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345, U.S.A.

E-mail: jmcorven@manomet.org

For further information on the Congress visit the Website: <http://www-cesctec1.mty.itesm/vicon>

Wader book update and information request

By Lindsay Agnew

The Queensland Waders Study Group (QWSG) believes, as I am sure you would agree, the awareness and education about the conservation needs of wader is vital. As part of our response to this, the QWSG is developing a book on the waders of south-east Queensland. A wide range of topics are proposed to be covered by this book and include chapters on breeding and non-breeding habitat usage, migration, conservation, taxonomy and a guide to wader watching in south-east Queensland.

We believe that the book should provide a very readable reference (not a coffee table book) which provides a summary of our current collective knowledge on wader issues and pitched at a level appropriate for senior level secondary students, bird watchers wanting more detailed knowledge on this group of birds and those in the workforce who may need a quick reference material to assist in informing broad planning decisions.

To provide project support, a committee has been established and consists of Peter Driscoll, David Stewart, Rob Mancini and myself.

In order to provide high quality information, we have ranged far and wide to seek out potential authors. We have been delighted with the positive response from those invited to author sections of the book and believe that the combination of their collective knowledge will ensure that the book will be highly regarded.

We are delighted that Rob Mancini, a QWSG member, wader enthusiast and gifted wildlife artist has made a substantial commitment to support the book. This will ensure that the book will have both high visual appeal whilst providing quality descriptive portrayals of the birds described in the chapter on species identification.

At present contributors are busily tapping away at keyboards across the country preparing their first drafts.

What can you do to help?

We are looking, right now, for high quality photographs suitable for publication of waders found in our region, including many common species. For anyone wishing to donate slides or specifically photograph of the species we need, please contact David Stewart on (07) 3378 8605 as soon as possible.

As part of the development of this book, we are currently seeking your thoughts on any approaches which you may have developed over time to assist in sorting out identification of a wader species. In addition, we would also be interested in any observations on the habit of a species, either at roost or feeding, which you consider might benefit others in their quest to identify and learn more about waders. Once again your help, if you think you might be able to assist, would be appreciated as soon as possible, so please contact David Stewart on (07) 3378 8605 or myself on (07) 3892 1790 or e-mail aggies@ozemail.com.au.

Regards Lindsay Agnew

A letter received from the Environmental Protection Agency for the QWSG Newsletter.

17th March 1999

Re: Information for QWSG Newsletter

Dear Peter

Please find following a brief summary of how the QWSG count data is being used by the Department. I apologise for the delay in sending you this material for inclusion in the QWSG Newsletter.

“All wader bird count data for sites in Southeast Queensland is currently being incorporated into a large database / GIS system at the Environmental Protection Agency’s Southern Regional Office. The Database records the documented distribution, conservation significance, biology and ecological requirements of over 70 species of plants and animals that are listed under state, federal or international legislation and treaties. Shorebird counts, kindly supplied by Peter Driscoll, form a major component of the database, and are used by staff to prepare the SEQ Regional Management Plan and to assess permit applications for activities in Moreton Bay Marine Park.”

A Bibliography of Waders in Queensland

Compiled by David Stewart

The following list should not be considered as a complete list for Queensland waders, and will be added to in the future. Many of these papers can be found in the commonly read research journals such as the *Emu* or *Sunbird*, however there is a number of the more obscure references, including wader monitoring and management publications commissioned by the Queensland State Government or university theses. The QWSG library has many of these references, however there is still a number that we do not have at present. Although I will endeavour to locate more, if you know of others not present in this list, or have duplicate copies that can be made available to other members please let me know.

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Compiled by David Stewart

Look out for Banded Plovers

From: Oscar W. Johnson owjplovers@montana.campuscw.net
 To: WADERS-L@UCT.AC.ZA
 Sent: Sunday, April 11, 1999 9:53 AM

SHOREBIRDERS: Please keep your eyes on *Pluvialis* plover legs this spring!

We've been banding golden-plovers (Pacific and American) and Black-bellied Plovers for many years at Oahu, Hawaii and Nome, Alaska. More recently, we started marking Pacific Golden-Plovers at Johnston Atoll. Each bird wears a USF&WS metal band plus some combination of colour-bands (a few have flags). It is important to record the exact sequence on each leg, and whether there is a colour-band above or below the metal band.

Send observations with as much information as possible to:

Oscar Johnson, Dept. of Biology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, USA 59717
 e-mail owjplovers@montana.campuscw.net
 tele 406-994-4548; FAX 406-994-3190) or
 Phillip Bruner, Natural Sciences Div., BYU-Hawaii, Laie, HI, USA 96762
 e-mail brunerp@BYUH.edu
 tele 808-293-3820; FAX 808-293-3825).

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last magazine was printed :

Ruxandra Borsaru, Adele Warburton, Tom & Tessa Lamin,
 Phil Battley, Desmond Wells, Roy Durre, Alan Barton, Linda Burge.

Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible.

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Queensland Ornithological Society Inc. whose object is "To promote the scientific study and conservation of birds by all means possible, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland".

Separate membership is required. Contacts: Dawn Muir, President (07) 3870 8076; Sheena Gillman, Secretary (07) 3372 4089; Treasurer, Lyal Grundy (07) 3355 1050

Monthly Meetings

QOSI - 7.45pm Queensland Museum Brisbane
 1st Thursday each month except January.
 Entry via Dinosaur Garden in Grey Street. Doors open between 7.30 and 8.00pm.



ACTIVITIES - 1999

Wader Counts (general monitoring)

Contact: Linda Cross (07) 5495 2758. Completed count forms should be returned as soon as possible to Mrs L Cross at 40 Thompson Rd, Bellmere, Qld 4510.

WADER COUNTS DATES (general monitoring) FOR ALL OF 1999

NO COUNT IN JUNE

Sat 31 st July	High Tide of 1.87m at 11.16am (NATIONAL WINTER COUNT)
Sat 14 th August	High Tide of 1.91m at 11.26am
Sun 12 th September	High Tide of 2.00m at 10.58am
Sun 10 th October	High Tide of 2.10m at 9.57am
Sat 13 th November	High Tide of 2.10m at 12.23pm
Sat 11 th December	High Tide of 2.27m at 11.27am

Maintenance and Social Day

Equipment Maintenance Day and Social Get-together.

When? 5th of June at 9:00 am
 Where? Nudgee Beach Environment Centre, 1588 Nudgee Beach Road, Nudgee Beach.
 What do you need? BYO Picnic Lunch/BBQ, binoculars, insect repellent, suntan cream, enthusiasm, humour, clothes that don't matter.
 Who to Contact? Linda Cross, phone 07 5495 2758 for more details.

Wader ID Day 28th August 1999

Where? Manly Boat Harbour.
 When? Sat 28th August 1999 at 08:30am for the 1.97 metre high tide at 10:17 am.
 For more exact details please phone Linda on 07 5495 2758 or Sheryl on 07 3398 4898. We are waiting for precise details as the Newsletter is being finalised.

Eastern Curlew Low Tide Survey.

Paul Finn is hoping to run the Eastern Curlew Low tide survey during the winter months to ascertain whether there are any great differences to the summer's results and to obtain figures for winter numbers. If you can participate in this project please phone him on:

(07) 3875 7689 (Uni)
 or (07) 3349 3162 (hm)
 or Email: P.Finn@mailbox.qu.edu.au

Planned dates for the winter survey effort

Survey No.	Date	Time at Low Tide	Survey Period
1	Sat. 26 th June	13:46hrs	11:46 to 15:46 hrs
1	Sun. 27 th June	14:24hrs	12:24 to 16:24 hrs
2	Sat. 24 th July	12:27hrs	10:27 to 14:27 hrs
2	Sun. 25 th July	13:14hrs	11:14 to 15:14 hrs

Copy Deadline for Winter Edition

The deadline for the next issue is the 14th of August 1999. Contributions should be addressed to David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011 or E-mail to gouldian@ozemail.com.au Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word, ASCII or Rich Text. *** Note change of E-mail address. ***